

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 1-hour Ozone in St. Mary Parish

St. Mary Parish, Louisiana was designated under section 107 of the 1977 CAA as nonattainment with respect to ozone NAAQS on September 11, 1978. (40 CFR 81.319) In accordance with section 110 of the 1977 CAA, the state of Louisiana submitted the ozone SIP as required by part D on December 10, 1979. EPA fully approved this ozone SIP on October 29, 1981 (46 FR 53412).

On November 15, 1990, the CAA Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) were enacted (Public Law 101-549, 104 Stat. 2399, codified at 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q). The ozone nonattainment designation for St. Mary Parish continued by operation of law according to section 107(d)(1)(C)(i) of the CAA, as amended in 1990 (See 56 FR 56694, November 6, 1991). Since the State had not yet collected in St. Mary Parish the required three (3) years of ambient air quality data necessary to petition for redesignation to attainment, the area was designated as nonattainment-incomplete data for ozone.

In order to demonstrate attainment with the 1-hour ozone NAAQS, the state collected the required ambient monitoring data in St. Mary Parish that showed no violations of the 0.12 ppm 1-hour ozone standard; developed an ozone maintenance plan for the parish in accordance with section 175A of the CAAA; and on June 14, 1993, submitted to EPA for approval a request for redesignation to attainment and the ozone maintenance plan. Although the maintenance plan and redesignation request were deemed complete by EPA, several approvability issues existed. The state addressed the issues and submitted a revised maintenance plan and redesignation request to EPA on March 27, 1995.

EPA redesignated St. Mary Parish as attainment with the 1-hour ozone NAAQS on August 18, 1995 (60 FR 43020) and approved the ozone maintenance plan as meeting the requirements set forth in the CAAA. On October 17, 1995, the effective date of EPA's approval, the ozone maintenance plan for St. Mary Parish became part of the federally enforceable SIP for Louisiana.

1.1.2 8-hour Ozone in St. Mary Parish

On April 15, 2004, the EPA designated and classified areas for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS (69 FR 23858, April 30, 2004). St. Mary Parish was designated attainment with an effective date of June 15, 2004.

1.2 Geographic Location/Parish Description

St. Mary Parish is located in south central Louisiana. It is surrounded by Iberia Parish to the north, St. Martin Parish to the east, Assumption Parish to the southeast, Terrebonne Parish to the south and the Gulf of Mexico to the southwest. The parish has a total area of 1,119 square miles, of which 613 square miles is land and 506 square miles is water.

The two major industries of St. Mary Parish are oil and commercial shrimping. Industries of note are oil and its related industries, sugar refining, salt, carbon black, timber, shrimping and fishing. Agricultural related industries are sugarcane, rice, corn and soybeans. St. Mary Parish has a population of approximately 53,500. This figure indicates a steady decline of 17% since the 1980 and 1990 census were conducted. In 1980, the population was 64,253 and in 1990 the population was 58,086.

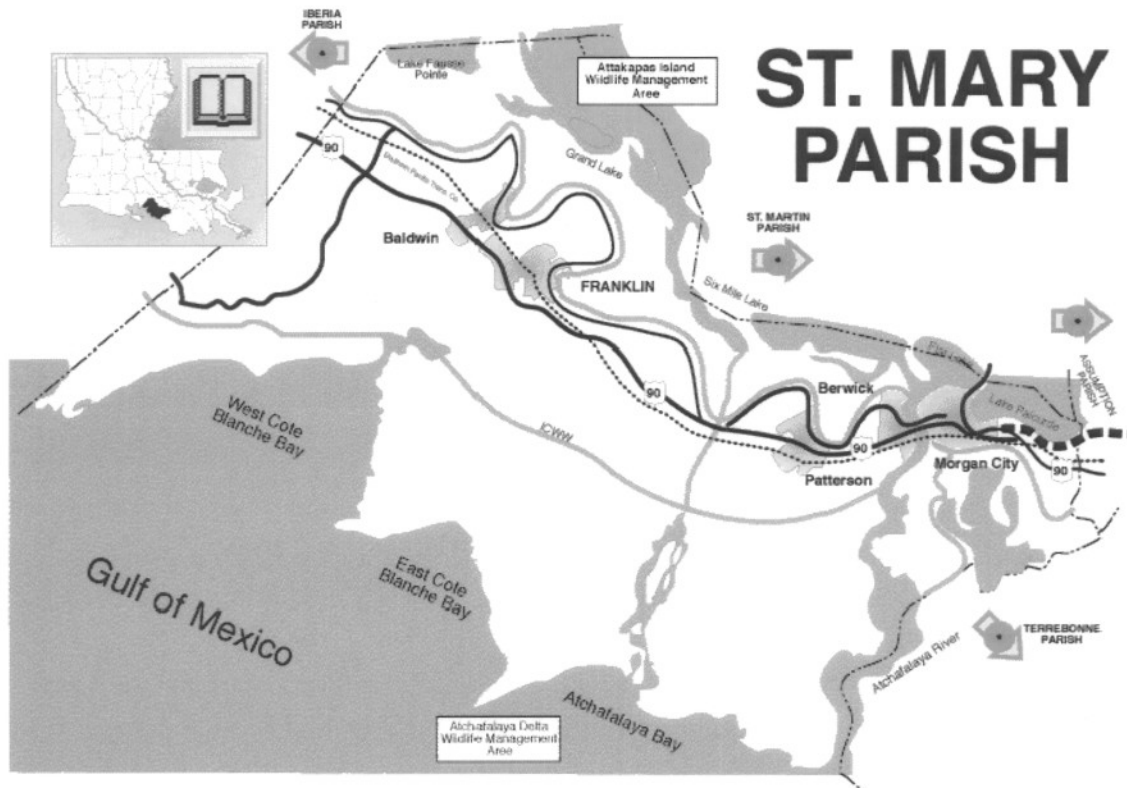


Figure 1: State Map Illustrating St. Mary Parish

1.3 Public Notice

In accordance with La. R.S. 49:950 et seq., and to comply with 40 CFR 51.285 Public Notification, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality published a notice seeking comment on this SIP revision on June 20, 2006, in the *Louisiana Register*. A public hearing concerning this proposed SIP revision will be held at 1:30pm on July 25, 2006, in the Galvez Building, Oliver Pollock Room C111, at 602 N. Fifth Street in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Interested parties are invited to submit written or oral comments on the proposal at that time. The comment period will close at 4:30 p.m. on August 1, 2006. Written comments will be accepted via mail, fax, or e-mail. Copies of the notices are included in Appendix D.